DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 244 706 JC 840 314

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TITLE Analysis of Spring 1984 Enrollment. Research Report Number 35.
INSTITUTION Howard Community Coll., Columbia, MD. Office of Research and Planning.
PUB DATE Mar 84
NOTE 19p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Community Colleges; *Declining Enrollment; *Enrollment Influences; Full Time Students; Part Time Students; *Student Characteristics; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students
IDENTIFIERS Maryland

ABSTRACT

An analysis of the spring 1984 enrollment at Howard Community College (HCC) is provided in this report. Part 1 provides an overview of the spring enrollment, highlighting enrollment declines in Maryland community colleges, declines in both full- and part-time students, and a more pronounced decline in the enrollment of males than females. Part 2 notes factors contributing to the enrollment reduction, including lower unemployment rates, changing attitudes towards the need for education, increased spending, stable or decreasing numbers of high school graduates, and the decreasing availability of financial aid. Part 3 provides tables comparing spring 1983 and spring 1984 enrollments of full- and part-time students by sex, and contrasting fall/spring 1983 and fall/spring 1984 enrollments in the same categories. Part 4 presents charts illustrating Howard County unemployment rates; the relationship of unemployment rates to full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments; the size of high school graduating classes; the relationship of FTE enrollment to high school graduating class size; financial aid per FTE; and the relationship of aid per FTE to FTE enrollment. A list of HCC research publications is appended. (HB)

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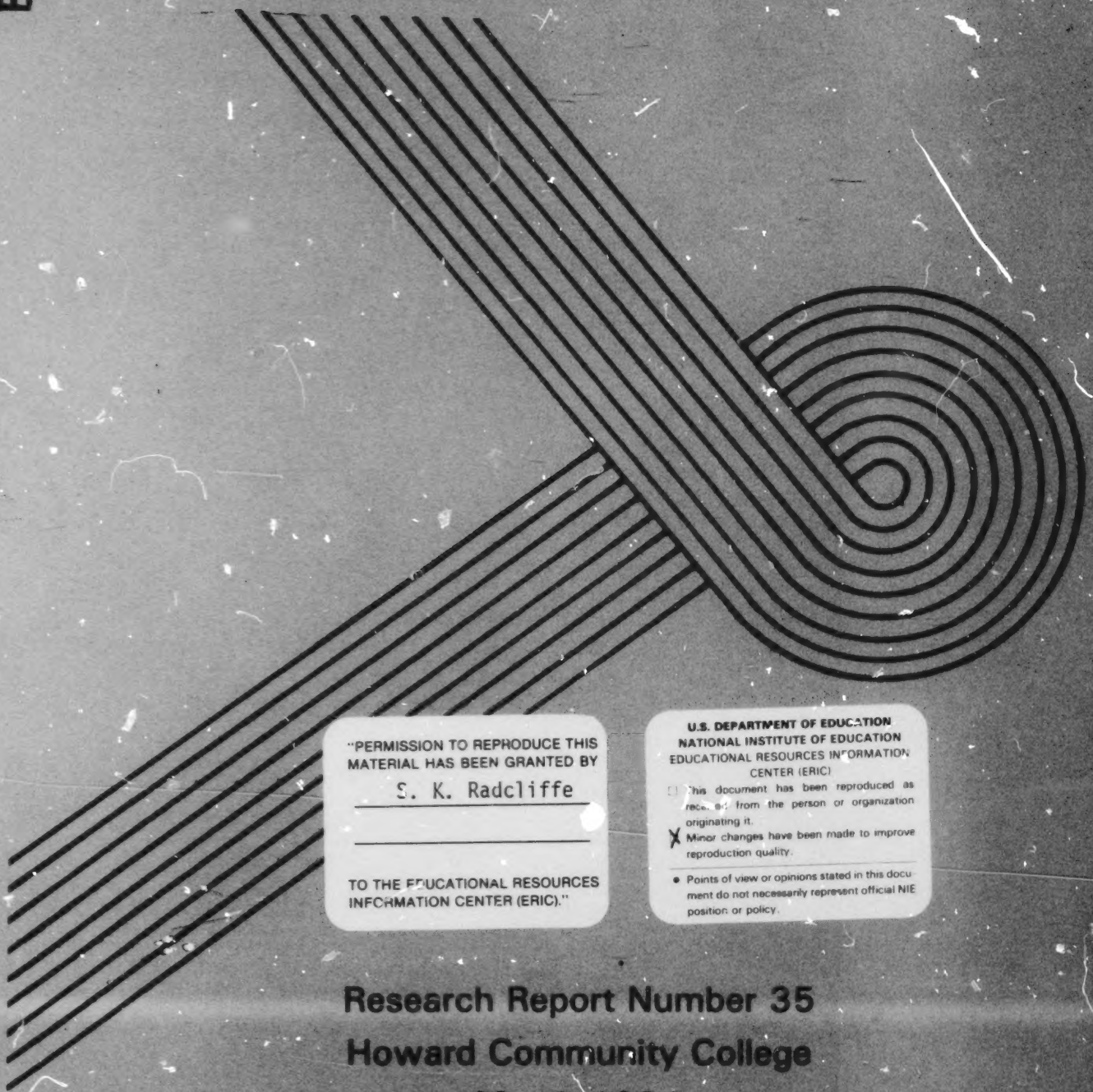
ANALYSIS OF SPRING 1984 ENROLLMENT



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Research Report Number 35
Howard Community College
March 1984

ANALYSIS OF SPRING 1984 ENROLLMENT

by

Susan K. Radcliffe
Coordinator of Institutional Research

Research Report Number 35
March 1984

Office of Institutional Research
Howard Community College
Columbia, Maryland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the assistance provided by
Montgomery College
Office of Institutional Research

PART ONE: OVERVIEW OF SPRING ENROLLMENT

ENROLLMENT DECLINES IN MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- ENROLLMENT DECLINES ARE SYSTEM-WIDE.
- TWELVE OUT OF 17 (OVER 70%) OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGES SURVEYED REPORT LOWER ENROLLMENTS THIS SPRING.**

DECLINES IN FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME CATEGORIES

- DECLINES FROM SPRING 83 ARE SLIGHTLY GREATER FOR TOTAL HEADCOUNT THAN FOR FTE ENROLLMENTS.
- DECLINES FROM LAST SPRING ARE SLIGHTLY GREATER FOR FULL-TIME THAN FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS.
- FULL-TIME STUDENTS MAKE UP ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME PROPORTION (20.7%) OF SPRING 84 ENROLLMENTS AS SPRING 83 ENROLLMENTS (20.9%)

DECLINES MORE PRONOUNCED FOR MALES THAN FOR FEMALES

- PART-TIME MALE ENROLLMENT DECLINED BY 6.7% FROM SPRING 1983 TO SPRING 1984.
- OVERALL, MALE ENROLLMENT DECLINED BY 6.7% FROM SPRING 1983 TO SPRING 1984.
- DURING THE SAME PERIOD, FEMALE ENROLLMENT DECLINED BY 3.8%.

** ANNE ARUNDEL, COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE, DUNDALK, GARRETT, AND WOR-WIC REPORT INCREASES.

PART TWO: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO ENROLLMENT DECLINES*

LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

- DECREASING UNEMPLOYMENT IN HOWARD COUNTY AND STATEWIDE APPEAR TO ACCOUNT FOR AT LEAST SOME OF DECLINES. (SEE CHARTS I AND II.)

CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARD THE NEED FOR EDUCATION**

- WORKERS EXPERIENCE LESS FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOBS AND THUS ARE LESS LIKELY TO SEEK TRAINING FOR CAREER CHANGES.

INCREASED SPENDING

- INCREASED SPENDING IN DECEMBER HAS LEFT PEOPLE WITH LESS DISPOSABLE INCOME FOR SPRING.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS SIZES NO LONGER INCREASING

- IN PAST YEARS, INCREASING NUMBERS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MEANT INCREASING POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENTS NATIONWIDE. NUMBERS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOW STABLE OR DECREASING, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS (CHARTS III AND IV).

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

- STUDENT FINANCIAL AID RATE PER FTE DECREASED FROM $215 PER FTE IN FY82 TO $175 PER FTE IN FY83. FY84 FIGURES FOR $182 FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS PER FTE ARE ALSO LOWER THAN FT82'S AID RATE (CHARTS V AND VI).

- THERE MAY BE A TIME LAG BETWEEN THE LOWER RATE OF AID PER FTE AND ITS EFFECT ON ENROLLMENTS.

- PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF DECREASING FINANCIAL AID MAY BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACTUAL DECLINE IN RATE.

COMBINATION OF FACTORS

- THE COMBINATION OF LESS DISPOSABLE INCOME, LOWER EXPECTATIONS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID, AND A LOWERED PERCEIVED NEED FOR EDUCATION TO UPGRADE JOB SKILLS MAY BE MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY ONE FACTOR ALONE.

* SUGGESTED BY "A REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE." MONTGOMERY COLLEGE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, OCTOBER, 1983.

** WILLIAM CAMPBELL, MONTGOMERY COLLEGE.

PART THREE: SPRING 84 ENROLLMENT TABLES

TABLE I.

SPRING 83 TO SPRING 84 COMPARISONS

	Spring 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease	
	N *	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time	755	20.9%	709	20.7%	(46)	-6.1%
Part-Time	2849	79.1%	2720	79.3%	(129)	-4.5%
TOTAL	3604	100.0%	3429	100.0%	(175)	-4.9%
FTE	803.7	---	770.4	---	(33)	-4.1%

* N = Number of students

TABLE II.

FALL/SPRING FY83 TO FALL/SPRING FY84 COMPARISONS

	Fall 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time	788	21.8%	709	20.7%	(79)	-10.0%
Part-Time	2832	78.2%	2720	79.3%	(112)	-4.0%
TOTAL	3620	100.0%	3429	100.0%	(191)	-5.3%
FTE	830.9	----	770.4	----	(61)	-7.3%

	Fall 1982		Spring 1983		Decrease	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time	782	21.4%	755	20.9%	(27)	-3.5%
Part-Time	2868	78.6%	2849	79.1%	(19)	-0.7%
TOTAL	3650	100.0%	3604	100.0%	(46)	-1.3%
FTE	823.6	----	803.7	----	(20)	-2.4%

TABLE III.

SPRING FY83 TO SPRING FY84 COMPARISONS BY SEX

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

	Spring 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	356	47.2%	333	47.0%	(23)	-6.5%
Female	399	52.8%	376	53.0%	(23)	-5.8%
TOTAL	755	100.0%	709	100.0%	(46)	-6.1%

PART-TIME STUDENTS

	Spring 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	967	33.9%	902	33.2%	(65)	-6.7%
Female	1882	66.1%	1818	66.8%	(64)	-3.4%
TOTAL	2849	100.0%	2720	100.0%	(129)	-4.5%

TOTAL

	Spring 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	1323	36.7%	1235	36.0%	(88)	-6.7%
Female	2281	63.3%	2194	64.0%	(87)	-3.8%
TOTAL	3604	100.0%	3429	100.0%	(175)	-4.9%

TABLE IV.

FALL/SPRING FY83 TO FALL/SPRING FY84 COMPARISONS BY SEX

	Fall 1983		Spring 1984		Decrease/Increase	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time Male	378	10.4%	333	9.7%	(45)	-11.9%
Part-Time Male	882	24.4%	902	26.3%	20	2.3%
Full-Time Female	410	11.3%	376	11.0%	(34)	-8.3%
Part-Time Female	1950	53.9%	1818	53.0%	(132)	-6.8%
TOTAL	3620	100.0%	3429	100.0%	(191)	-5.3%
FTE	830.9	---	770.4	---	(61)	-7.3%

	Fall 1982		Spring 1983		Decrease/Increase	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-Time Male	368	10.1%	356	9.9%	(12)	-3.3%
Part-Time Male	875	24.0%	967	26.8%	92	+10.5%
Full-Time Female	414	11.3%	399	11.1%	(15)	-3.6%
Part-Time Female	1993	54.6%	1882	52.2%	(111)	-5.6%
TOTAL	3650	100.0%	3604	100.0%	(46)	-1.3%
FTE	823.6	---	803.7	---	(20)	-2.4%

PART FOUR: CHARTS

CHART I	HOWARD COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
CHART II	RELATIONSHIP OF UNEMPLOYMENT RATES TO FTE ENROLLMENT
CHART III	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES
CHART IV	RELATIONSHIP OF FTE ENROLLMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZES
CHART V	FINANCIAL AID PER FTE
CHART VI	RELATIONSHIP OF AID PER FTE TO FTE ENROLLMENT

CHART I

HOWARD COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

March of Each Year

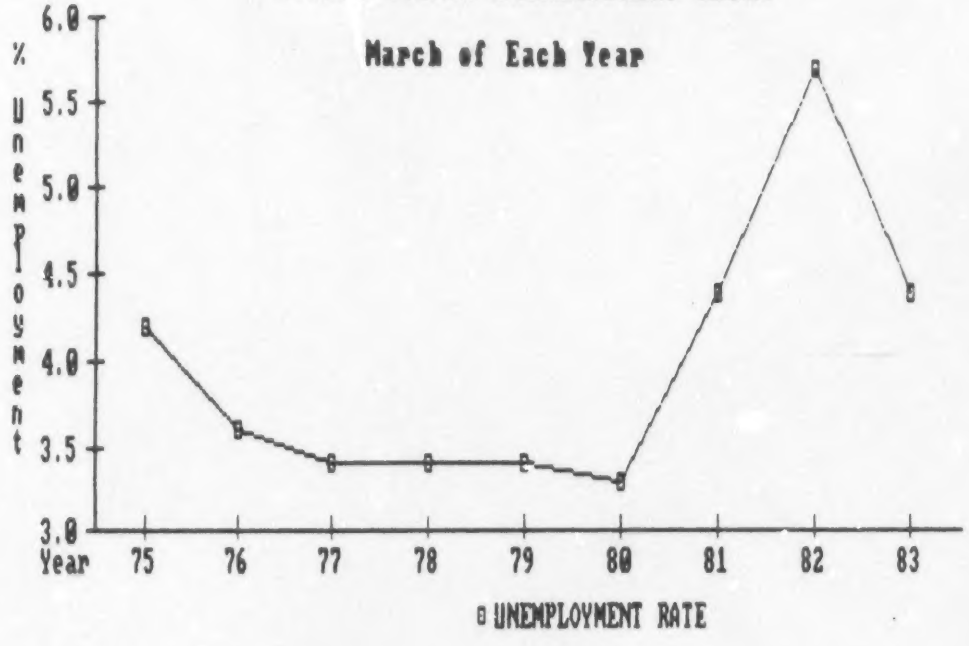

CHART II

RELATIONSHIP OF UNEMPLOYMENT RATES TO FTE ENROLLMENT

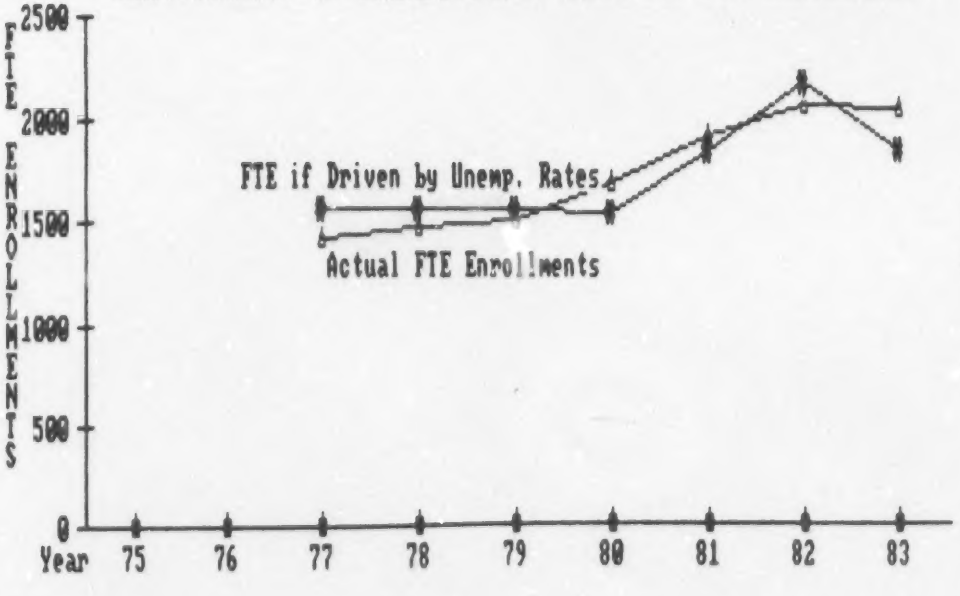

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CHART III

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES

JUNE 1972 - JUNE 1982

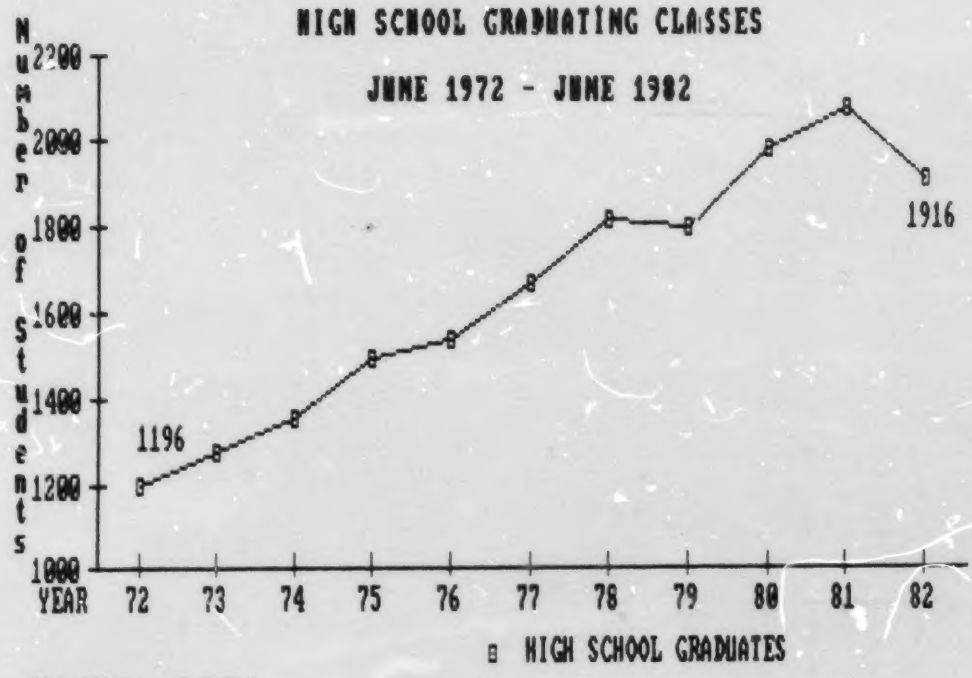

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CHART IV

RELATIONSHIP OF FTE ENROLLMENTS TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZES

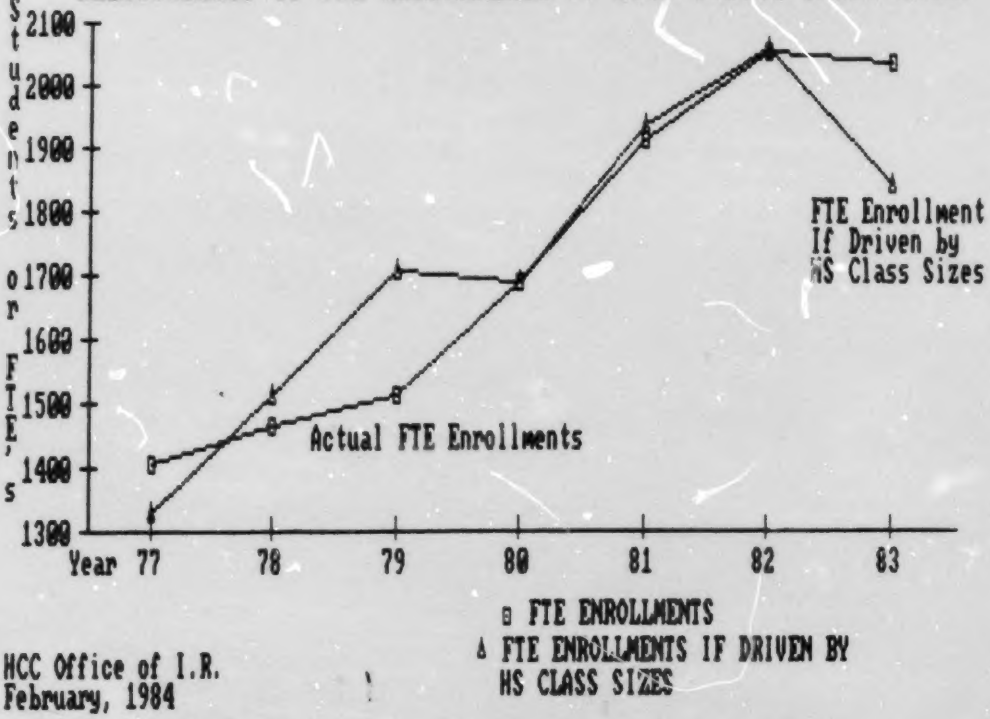

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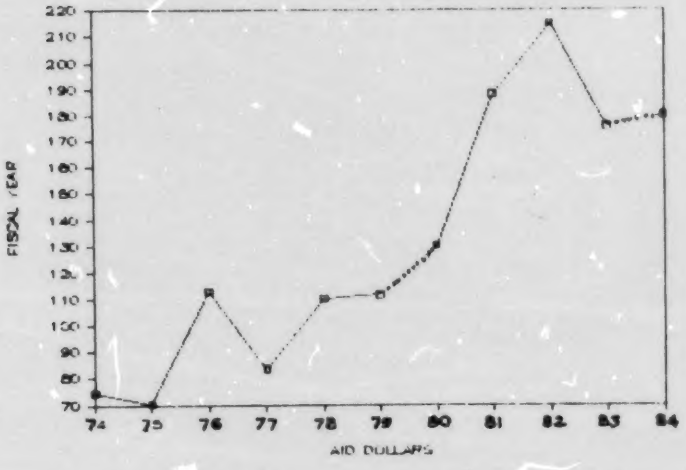
CHART V

FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS PER FTE

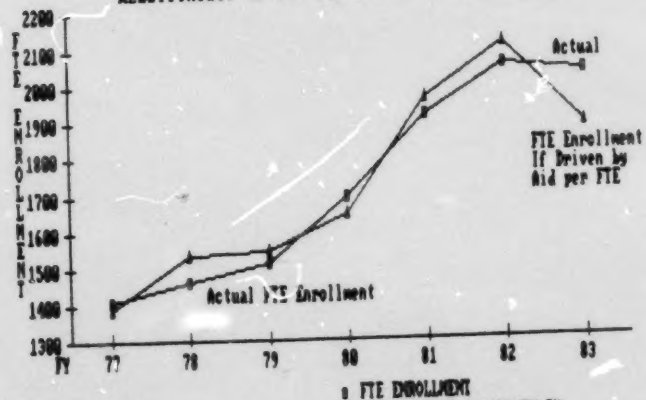


FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS PER FTE

	FY	TOTAL AID	FTE	AID/FTE
	74	$66,843	898	$74
	75	$77,742	1104	$70
	76	$137,692	1219	$113
	77	$117,756	1410	$84
	78	$160,830	1464	$110
	79	$168,774	1513	$112
	80	$219,544	1689	$130
	81	$359,271	1913	$188
	82	$441,117	2052	$215
	83	$408,072	2331	$175
Projected	84	$425,000	2345	$180

CHART VI

RELATIONSHIP OF AID PER FTE TO FTE ENROLLMENT



o FTE ENROLLMENT
Δ FTE ENROLLMENT IF DRIVEN BY FINANCIAL AID PER FTE

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CHART III

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES

JUNE 1972 - JUNE 1982

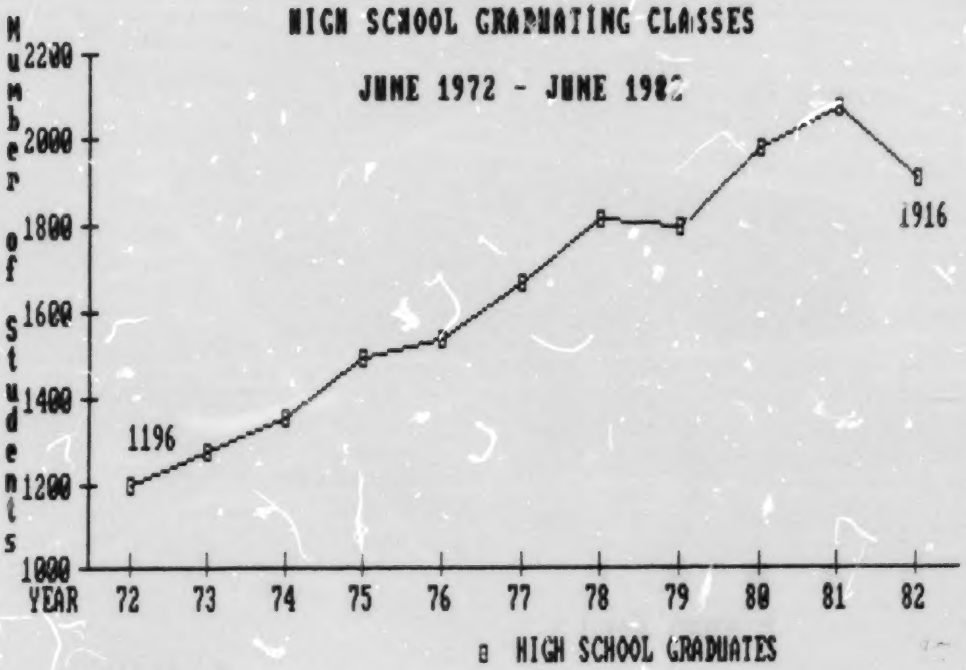

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CHART IV

RELATIONSHIP OF FTE ENROLLMENTS TO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZES

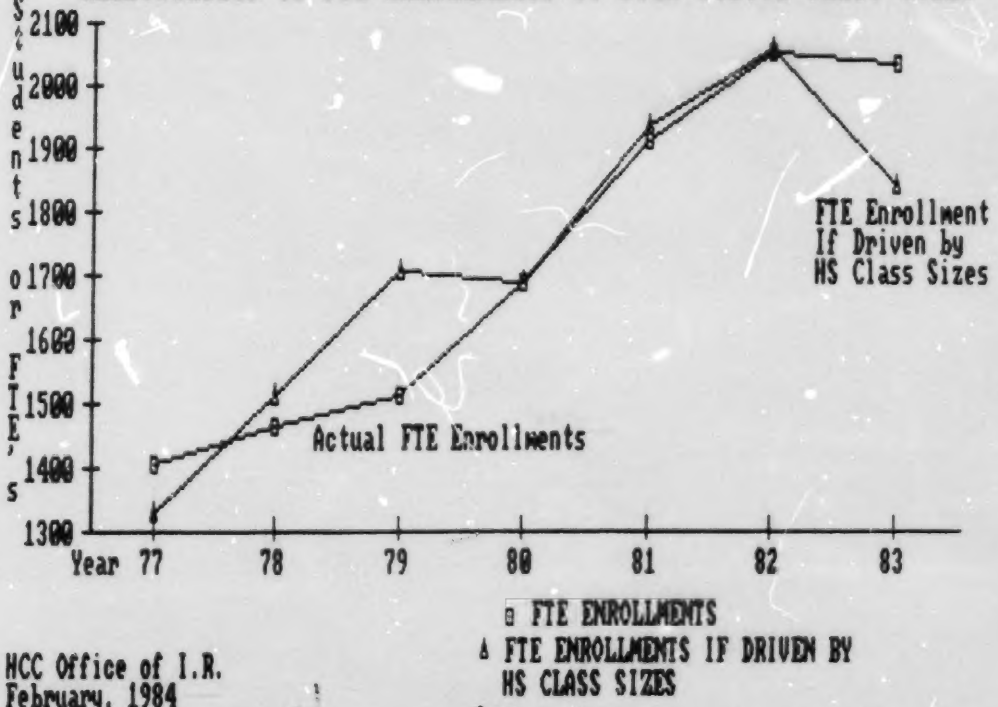

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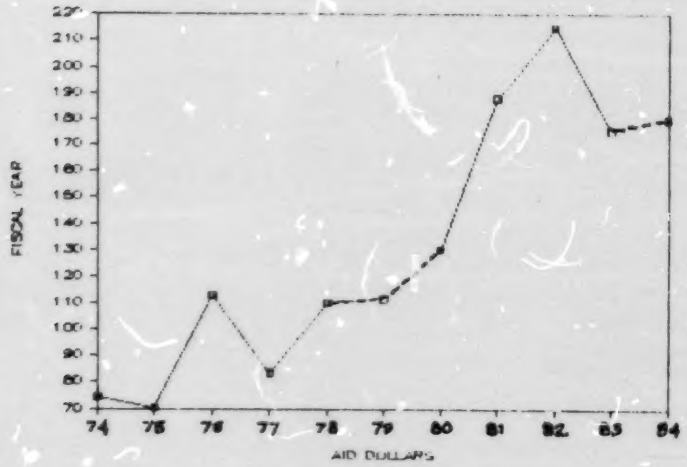
CHART V

FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS PER FTE



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	82	$441,117	2052	$215
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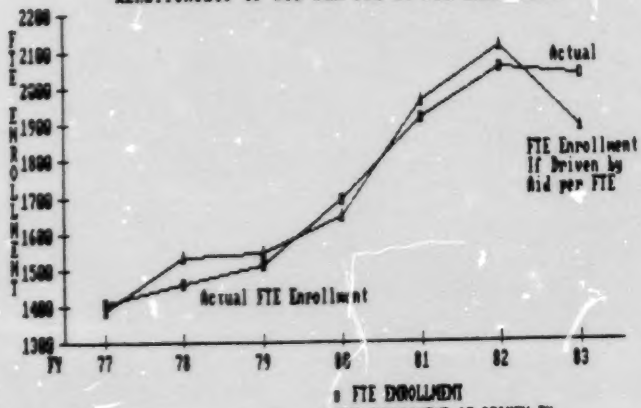
CHART VI

RELATIONSHIP OF AID PER FTE TO FTE ENROLLMENT



o FTE ENROLLMENT

Δ FTE ENROLLMENT IF DRIVEN BY FINANCIAL AID PER FTE

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February, 1984

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